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the tax may so reduce the net earnings at the old price as to induce the monopolist to raise the price, thus shifting the tax, in part at least. He argues that a higher price, even if it result in a decrease in the sales, may leave a larger net return after the tax has been paid. He also points out that if the tax result in raising the price, it curtails consumption and production, and causes a loss to the community without a corresponding benefit to any one.

The second part of the book deals with a "new principle as to justice in taxation," which is a novel application of the theory of final utility. Justice in taxation is attained, according to the author, when the marginal utility of the particular expenditures for which the tax is collected is greater than that of any other use of the money. That is to say, justice is attained only when a tax is collected which the individual would have paid without compulsion rather than do without the privileges which the payment of the tax ensures him. Practically all this means is that no taxes are just unless the public expenditures are for purposes which really benefit the taxpayers.

Although one may be unable to agree with many of the author's conclusions, it cannot be denied that the book is a scholarly piece of work.

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The Labour Question in Britain. By PAUL DE ROUSIERS. With a preface by Henri de Tourville. Translated by F. L. D. Herbertson. London and New York, The Macmillan Co., 1896. — 393 pp.

La Question Ouvrière en Angleterre. Par PAUL DE ROUSIERS. Avec une préface de Henri de Tourville. Paris, Firmin-Didot, 1885. — 532 pp.

Le Trade-Unionisme en Angleterre. Par PAUL DE ROUSIERS, avec la collaboration de MM. de Carbonnel, Festy, Fleury et Wilhelm. Bibliothèque du Musée Social. Paris, Armand Colin & Cie., 1897. — 356 pp.

England has long been the chosen land of foreign students in quest of materials and lessons on various phases of economic life. The labor problem especially has been the favorite field of investigation by Germans, Frenchmen, Italians and the rest for the past fifty years. Many admirable works have resulted ; but few, if any, have equaled in value or in interest the book by M. de Rousiers, which, a

few months after its publication in France, appeared in English dress, under the title, *The Labour Question in Britain*.

M. de Rousiers starts out on a novel plan. He recognizes the fact that machinery has revolutionized the industrial system, but he is equally conscious of the further fact that all branches of industry have not advanced to the same point in this evolution. There are important survivals of the old domestic system and small workshop, which must not be neglected in any investigation of the actual problem. M. de Rousiers has, therefore, divided his inquiry into three parts. The first deals with the labor question in small workshops, representing trades of the old type, like the tool-makers, glass-workers, cutlers, typographers, plumbers and others, who are menaced in various degrees by the industrial revolution. In a second class he includes the mining industry, a trade which is organized on the modern system, and which owes its success to scientific methods of business and to international trade on a large scale; but in which the workman himself is still one of the old type, working with about the same tools and in the same way as in former centuries. Part III deals with the trades in which the evolution of the modern factory system has been completed, such as the iron and textile industries.

It will be seen at a glance that this is a new and fruitful way of dealing with the subject. It shows us that there is not a single labor problem, but several problems, according to the conditions which confront the workman. M. de Rousiers, moreover, enhances the value of his treatment by using a kind of family monograph method. He starts in each case with the workman himself — studies him in the workshop and at home, and gives an account of his family life and of the ideals that actuate him. We thus get a series of typical histories, based on original investigation, and presented in a skillful and interesting manner. The dramatic story of the supplanting of the older system by the new one is brought before us in a fresh way, and with an admirable regard for perspective; for M. de Rousiers is an eminently sane man, who is thoroughly alive to the socializing influences of the factory system, without closing his eyes to the evils, which can and will be lopped off.

It would be impossible to mention all the good features of the book. A typical example of the author's mode of treatment may be found in his account of the sweating system. This, as he well shows, is primarily due to the existence of penniless employers—a class brought into existence by the facilities for starting in business that

are afforded by the modern division of labor and the increase of popular demand. When M. de Rousiers tells us that the sweating system can be ended only by the greater development of machinery, he is stating a fact to the truth of which any one intimately acquainted with the clothing trade in a large city like New York can testify.

Taking it all in all, M. de Rousiers's book contains far and away the best statement of the fundamental conditions of the labor problem in England that has yet been published. It fully deserved the honor accorded to it — that of being crowned by the *Académie des Sciences Morales et Politiques*. There is no other work which gives so vivid and, on the whole, so sane a view of the relations of the modern workman to his industrial environment. And he is to be congratulated for having in Mr. Herbertson so good and careful a translator.

A short time after the appearance of this volume, the *Musée Social* was founded, and M. de Rousiers was sent to England with a band of young men on a mission to make a more detailed study of trade-unionism. The results of this investigation have just appeared in French dress. M. de Rousiers studies the system of collective bargaining in the same way as in the previous volume he studied the laborer himself. He begins with what might be called the antiquated systems, as in the building trades; he next proceeds to the intermediate types, represented by the agricultural laborers, the dockers and the miners; and he finally devotes most of his space to the unions in the shipbuilding, engineering and textile industries. The work is not quite equal to its predecessor, partly, perhaps, because the particular subject has been more exploited in England. But M. de Rousiers will be found instructive by those who do not agree with the analysis of Sidney and Beatrice Webb in their account of the relation between the New Unionism and the Old.

E. R. A. SELIGMAN.

The Theory of the Divine Right of Kings. By J. NEVILLE FIGGIS, Lecturer on History in St. Catharine's College, Cambridge. University Press, 1896. — 304 pp.

This work was the Prince Consort Dissertation for 1892. In a somewhat amplified form it is now published as one of the series of Cambridge Historical Essays. As tracing with much greater detail than has been before attempted the history of that theory which ascribes a sacrosanct character to political authority, the book is a